

Saudi leader ends Syria visit

DAMASCUS (AP) — Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia left Damascus Saturday after two days of talks with President Hafez Al Assad on Arab unity, the Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported. Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam escorted Prince Abdullah to the airport. SANA reported, Abdullah has been trying for some time to end differences between Syria and Iraq in a drive to unite the Arab World. Assad visited Riyadh Dec. 14 for two days of talks on what Arab diplomats called "unifying efforts to achieve pan-Arab goals." SANA did not give any details of Assad's closed-door talks with Abdullah Friday, which it said centred on regional developments and "the achievement of Arab solidarity." But diplomatic sources reported Friday night that the situation in Lebanon was discussed. Diplomatic sources said Friday that Assad and Abdullah were expected to discuss moves to convene an Arab summit to reinforce the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace initiative and to press for an international Middle East peace conference.

Cabinet reviews Jordan-PLO ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and reviewed the recent talks between His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and the atmosphere of friendship and cooperation that prevail in Jordanian-Palestinian relations and meetings. The council also reviewed a number of issues on its agenda and adopted several decisions related to the national economy and development goals. The Cabinet decided to set up a council entrusted with the task of developing the southern regions, including representatives of the governorates of Karak, Ma'an and Tafleh and members of governorate development councils. The Council of Ministers also decided to establish a badia development office affiliated with the Ministry of Planning to follow up recommendations and advance development in the badia regions.

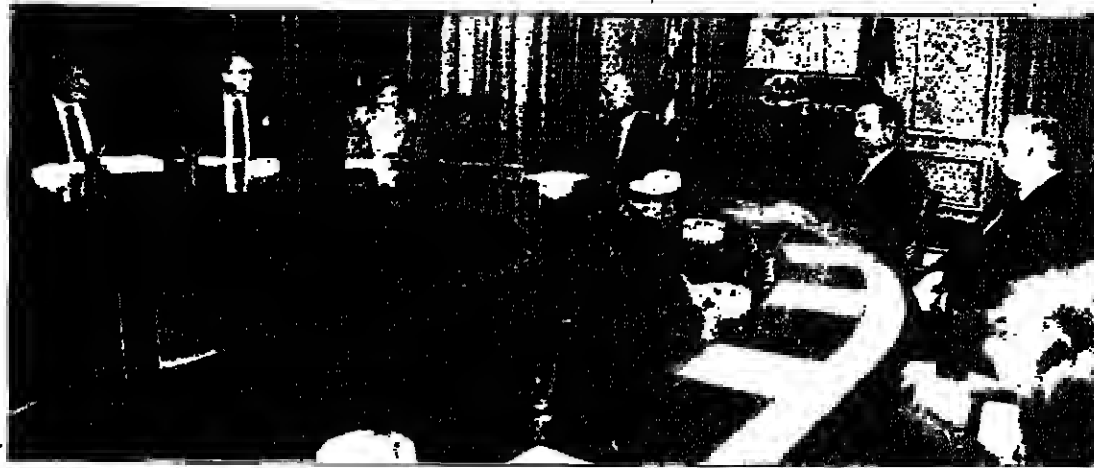
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His Majesty King Hussein conferring with a group of U.S. Republican congressmen currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

King reviews Mideast with U.S. lawmakers

PLO moves warrant positive Israeli response — Al Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday the positive Palestinian stand towards peace and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) response to the requirements of peace should draw a similar response from Israel.

The Palestinian people have a legitimate right to self-determination and freedom on their own land like all other peoples of the world, and they should be able to set up an independent state on Palestinian national soil," King Hussein said at a meeting with a visiting group of U.S. congressmen.

King Hussein reviewed with

the visitors developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem as well as the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Lebanon.

He said that the world community should intensify its efforts to transform the present ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a permanent peace based on non-interference in internal affairs of each other and marked by regional cooperation.

The Lebanese crisis can end when Lebanon regains its national unity, stability and territorial integrity, the King said at the meeting which was attended by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal

Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

King Hussein voiced hope that the incoming American administration of George Bush would take special interest in the Middle East in view of the region's significance to the world and the "inherent dangers that affect the whole world if the region's conflicts are allowed to continue."

He also voiced hope that the current favourable international climate would help lay the foundations of a permanent and durable global peace.

The U.S. congressmen were later received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who reviewed with them developments in the Middle East region and U.S.-Jordanian relations.

The American ambassador was present at the meeting. The three visiting congressmen, all of them Republican, are Edward Madigan of Illinois, Robert Smith of Oregon and Wally Herger of California.

King holds second round of talks with Arafat

Palestine embassy opens in Amman

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Saturday reaffirmed its total support for the Palestinian people and the newly declared Palestinian state by granting embassy status to the office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Amman.

His Majesty King Hussein, who held a second round of talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat Saturday, said Jordan fully supports the PLO leader, as well as his speech to the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva last month, and resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers Nov. 15.

"We are very happy that responsibilities are in the able hands of the PLO leaders and... we totally support my brother Abu Ammar (Arafat), our Palestinian brethren and the Palestinian cause with all our means and in every way possible," the King said at the end of the 90-minute meeting with Arafat.

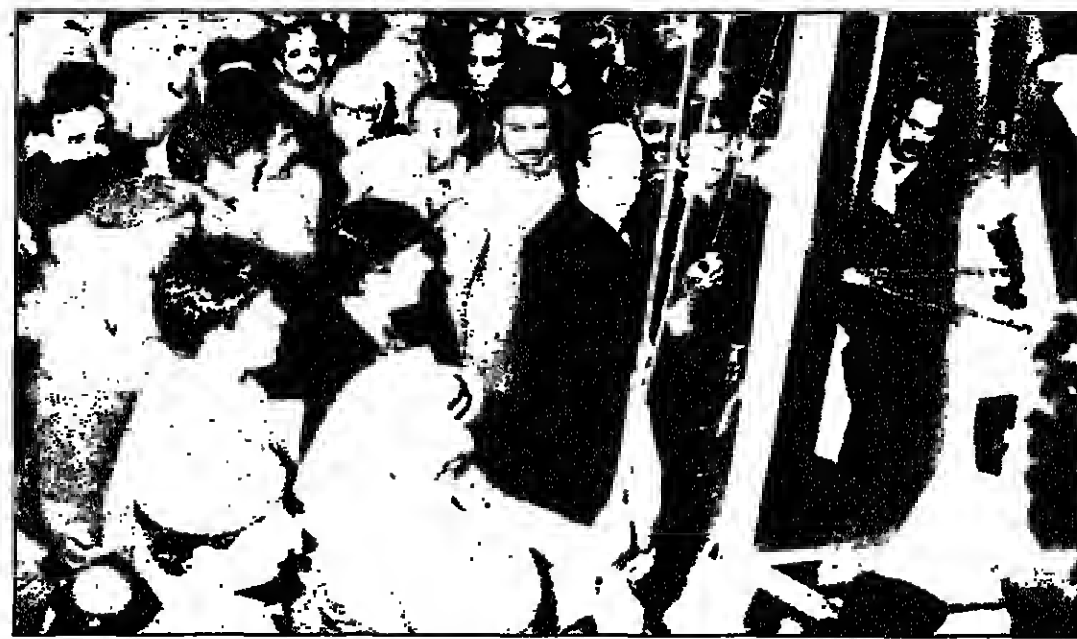
The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Jordan's decision to give

the PLO office embassy status came in line with the Kingdom's recognition of the independent Palestinian state and its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and independence.

For his part, Arafat expressed gratitude and appreciation of Jordan's brotherly stand in support of the Palestine issue.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Arafat raised the Jordanian and Palestinian flags side by side at the newly-upgraded embassy to the sound of applause from both Jordanians and Palestinians alike.

Asked how he felt immediately after the flag raising, the PLO leader said: "This means that the coordination and cooperation with our brothers, as we are one family, will increase all this Arab



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Saturday hoist the Jordanian and Palestinian flags at the embassy of Palestine in Amman (Petra photo)

unity towards Jerusalem." "This is a present not for the PLO but for the children and youth of the intifada," he added. "It is a message telling them that they are not alone but that their brothers in Jordan and in the

Arab World stand by them." Arafat said the PLO, along with King Hussein and other Arab leaders, wants to reach a common Arab vision on convening of an Arab summit. The prime minister expressed

hope that the raising of the flag over the newly-created embassy would be "a step towards raising the Palestinian flag on Palestinian territory and on Palestinian soil

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King, North Yemeni leader exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a telephone call from North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of pan-Arab issues and collective Arab action.

14 Palestinians shot and wounded in W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 14 Palestinians Saturday, including a 16-year-old girl who was shot in the head and critically wounded in a clash in the occupied West Bank, Arab reports and hospital officials said.

Also over the weekend, unidentified assailants stabbed an Arab village leader to death, in what appeared to be another in a series of attacks on suspected collaborators, hospital officials said.

Israel Radio said an angry mob attacked the home of 57-year-old Mahmoud Abdallah Hamoudah, stabbing him to death and lightly injuring his two sons, both in their 20s.

Hamoudah was the mukhtar of Qubeiba, 12 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem. He died late Friday night in a Ramallah hospital, officials said.

More than a dozen Palestinian collaborators have been killed during the almost 13-month-long uprising, and last week death threats were made against Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij for proposing a truce in the revolt.

Also last week, a 25-year-old Jericho man suspected of cooperating with Israel was killed in the West Bank.

Reports published in Palestinian newspapers said Palestinian factions were calling for eliminating the traditional leadership in the occupied territories to make way for more hardline leaders.

Protests erupted Saturday in the area of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, where troops shot and wounded four protesters, including the 16-year-old girl who was shot in the head.

Earlier in the day, dozens of

Palestinian women held an illegal march in Nablus and raised banned Palestinian flags, an Arab reporter said. He said soldiers dispersed them without opening fire.

Two protesters were shot and wounded in a clash in Bani Naim, a village in the southern West Bank region, Israel Radio said.

In the Gaza Strip, troops shot and wounded at least eight protesters who hurled rocks on them in the town of Rafah and in two refugee camps. Among the wounded was a seven-year-old boy, Arab reports and hospital officials said.

Palestinians reported protests in Ramallah where youths tried to tear down Israeli signs pointing to Jewish settlements.

In Jerusalem, two petrol

(Continued on page 4)

Hirohito, 87, passes away

TOKYO (Agencies) — Emperor Hirohito, once venerated as a living god and Japan's guiding spirit in World War II, died Saturday of intestinal cancer, after a 62-year reign that saw his nation recover from ruin to riches. He was 87.

Crown Prince Akihito, oldest of the emperor's two sons, became the 125th occupant of the Chrysanthemum Throne. In a wordless four-minute ceremony, a sword, jewels and the imperial seals were placed on a table in front of him, and he bowed solemnly.

Hirohito died without ever having shed much light on his World War II role.

Historians generally agreed he was a figurehead who was required to approve decisions of the military leaders, until he decided the Japanese had suffered enough — atomic bombing, firebombing and invasion — and personally announced surrender in August 1945.

His death followed a 3½-month illness during which reports on his blood pressure and temperature became fixtures of Japanese routine and many festivities were postponed or cancelled.

The government proclaimed a six-day formal mourning period and named the new emperor's reign Heisei, or achieving peace. Hirohito's reign, which began Dec. 25, 1926, was called Showa, or enlightened peace.

Thousands of sobbing mourners queued outside the imperial palace to pay last respects to the emperor.

Bright banners and clothing disappeared from the streets of the capital and red-and-white rising sun flags flew at half-mast.

Dim lighting and dark-coloured uniforms replaced gay decorations in the department stores of the Ginza shopping district.

Most theatrical performances and sports events were cancelled while television stations suspended regular programmes and



Emperor Hirohito

dropped all commercials. Arrangements for Hirohito's funeral, which is expected to take place Feb. 24, will be announced Sunday, government officials said.

"With heartfelt sorrow, I, together with our people, wish to express my deep sense of loss on the passing," Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said in a television address.

Leaders around the world offered condolences. But reaction to his death was muted in South Korea, ruled

(Continued on page 4)

Royal Court declares three-day mourning

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Hashemite Court Saturday expressed deep grief and sadness over the death of Emperor Hirohito of Japan and announced a three-day mourning period upon instructions from His Majesty King Hussein.

A statement said that "the Royal Court mourns the emperor, who passed away Saturday following a long series of glorious deeds."

The mourning, it said, "reflects the deep grief felt by King Hussein and the whole Jordanian family for the loss of a great leader."

The statement lauded the strong ties of friendship and close cooperation between Japan and Jordan and stressed that the strong ties founded by King Hussein and the late emperor would be bolstered in the days to come.

King cables condolences

His Majesty King Hussein sent a message of condolences to Emperor Akihito, who succeeded Hirohito. The message said the Jordanian government and people share with the King the grief over the death of Emperor Hirohito, "who was a bright symbol that embodied the great heritage of Japan and the Japanese people's distinguished achievements."

Paying tribute to Jordanian-Japanese relations, the King recalled the meetings he had with the late emperor and said he had gained wisdom, experience and insight from these meetings.

Protection for Palestinians top PLO priority

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The top priority for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its ongoing contacts with the United States and European states is arriving at ways and means to "protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories from Israeli state terrorism," according to a senior PLO official.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Saturday the PLO was maintaining close contacts with all Arab and friendly states, in particular the five permanent members of the

Security Council to devise "the practical steps necessary to protect the Palestinian people from Israel's unprecedented savage use of terrorist means, including use of live ammunition and toxic gas, destruction of homes, expulsions and massive detentions without trial."

Ahu Sharif, speaking to the Jordan Times in an interview, also renewed the PLO's rejection of any solution falling short of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Such solutions, Abu Sharif said, will never be able to restore peace in the Middle East.

Abu Sharif was referring to an idea recently floated by senior aides to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. No precise details of the proposals are available, but it is believed that it is based on a "tripartite confederation" including Jordan, the occupied territories and Israel.

"Any solution that doesn't lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state will be a solution that will be short of meeting the requirements necessary for stability and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," said Abu Sharif.

According to another senior PLO official, the proposal is the "Israeli alternative to the Palestinian peace offensive which has been gaining

momentum." The source said "no matter how it presents it, the ultimate Israeli aim is only to impose an 'autonomy' solution in the occupied territories."

Over 90 countries have extended full recognition to the newly proclaimed Palestinian state. International support for the PLO strategy based on a Jewish state and a Palestinian state has been increasing since the Palestine National Council (PNC) declared the state at a meeting in Algiers in November. In addition, the PLO has also met with key U.S. preconditions for formal contacts and thus cleared the way for the ongoing dialogue with the U.S.

which began in Tunis Dec. 16. Jordan has been one of the influential forces behind the course of events that led to the opening of the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

"Through supporting and increasing the momentum add the victories that make the PLO and the Palestinian people a reality, Jordan and the PLO will continue to cooperate and coordinate efforts to confront Israel's arrogance and rejectionist and expansionist policies," said Abu Sharif.

The PLO remains optimistic that its dialogue with the U.S.

(Continued on page 4)

Vorontsov reaffirms Soviet resolve

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Moscow will find a way to support Kabul's communist government following the withdrawal of its forces by Feb. 15 if no broad-based government is established by then, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov said Saturday.

Formation of a broad-based government representing all political forces of Afghanistan, including the ruling Marxist government, is the only way to guarantee peace after the remaining 50,000 Soviet soldiers leave, Vorontsov said at a news conference.

The Soviet envoy dismissed widespread claims by rebels, as well as Pakistani and Western analysts, that Kabul's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) will be toppled once Soviet troops are out of Afghanistan.

"It will survive in its own right and you will know it after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces," said Vorontsov. "We will be supporting them (the Kabul government) if there is no broad-based government. We will support the regime in Kabul as the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan. We will find the way."

He refused to elaborate further. Afghan rebels, who have been fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul for the past 10 years, have promised to establish a council that would in turn choose a transitional government.

But the loose alliance of seven Afghan rebel groups headquartered in Pakistan have said none of Afghanistan's communists will be allowed to participate.

"If that's going to be only a one-sided council there is no value in it," Vorontsov said.

"They must be realistic," he said. "By puffing and huffing they will not be able to destroy the house of present regime, if we take the words of the famous fairytale about the three little pigs."

Vorontsov, however, promised the February withdrawal deadline would be met unless Mujahideen attack departing Soviet soldiers.

"It could be delayed if there were all out fighting on Soviet forces, if there were attacks on Soviet forces withdrawing," he said. "They will fight back to defend and will not withdraw."

On Friday the guerrilla delegation made up of Pakistan-based and Iran-based representatives was insisting that President Najibullah's party had no place in a future administration.

"We said they could include the Muslim elements, but not the communists or non-Muslim elements... no-one will accept it in Afghanistan," said Mojaddidi, whose alliance has been fighting to set up an Islamic state over the past nine years.



Yuri Vorontsov

Global push begins in Paris against chemical arms spread

PARIS (Agencies) — Most of the world's nations began a five-day conference Saturday aimed at stopping the spread of chemical weapons.

Opening speakers urged the need to enforce a ban on the use of poison gas and speed up work on a treaty to outlaw its production but sought to reassure countries tempted to acquire the "poor man's nuclear bomb" that they were not in the dock.

This conference is not a court, but you must condemn out of band a weapon which must be destroyed," French President Francois Mitterrand, the host, told delegates from more than 140 countries.

"About 80 states, including both superpowers, are represented by their foreign ministers at the conference."

Mitterrand said the conference had two aims: to shore up the 1925 Geneva protocol, which banned the use of chemical weapons in war, and to accelerate work in Geneva on a new convention which would outlaw the production and possession of toxic gas.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appealed to delegates "to step up their efforts

to prohibit, once and for all, the use of chemical weapons, and to force the pace of the Geneva negotiations."

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz proposed the imposition of unspecified penalties by the United Nations to those violating the 1925 Geneva protocol banning the use of "one of humanity's most dreaded and dreadful forms of warfare."

Shultz warned that the threat of "terrorists" using chemical weapons is "a real one" and said some governments linked to "terrorism" have the ability to produce deadly chemical agents.

"There are no insurmountable technical obstacles that would prevent terrorist groups from using chemical weapons," Shultz told the conference delegates.

Shultz also argued for bolstering the U.N. secretary general's authority to investigate allegations of the use of chemical arms in war, and said nations must find ways to block the transfer of technology.

There was no direct reference in Shultz's speech at the headquarters of the U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, site of the conference, to the U.S. campaign against Libya.

U.S. officials have claimed for more than two months that chemical weapons are being developed at a plant southwest of Tripoli. Libya denies the charge.

Only the United States and the Soviet Union say they hold chemical weapons. But Western experts believe about 20 countries possess them or are on the way to doing so.

Western diplomats said they could see the force of any argument by poor countries that the richer nations were hypocritical to deny them their own deterrent. But they said going in for chemical weapons was a game no one could win.

French police tightened security at the conference after a man and a woman gained entry to a lobby outside the conference hall and shouted in an unidentified language before being dragged away.

The conference was overshadowed by Libyan fears of a U.S. strike on its disputed factory at Rabta, south of Tripoli. Tension heightened Wednesday when U.S. fighters shot down two Libyan MiG-23s which the Americans said were poised to attack them over the Mediterranean. Libya denies this.

Qadhafi invites Bush to direct talks

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Saturday invited the incoming U.S. administration of George Bush to direct talks on the disputes which have dogged them for years.

He also said Libya supported worldwide inspection of arms factories.

In a surprise appearance in the lobby of Tripoli's Kabir Hotel, Qadhafi said: "The Bush administration must sit face to face with Libya so that we can agree on the issues in dispute."

"It must put weapons aside so that we can establish peace in the Mediterranean and in the world. I believe the Bush administration is able to do that."

U.S. navy planes shot down two Libyan MiG-23s off the Libyan coast Wednesday and Washington has hinted it might attack a factory where it says Libya is planning to produce chemical weapons.

Qadhafi, dressed in a brown woollen cloak, a tartan shirt and a black beret, turned up at the hotel driving his own white Peugeot for what he said was a cup of coffee.

About 150 foreign journalists wrestled with Qadhafi bodyguards as he wandered silently through the corridors for several minutes.

"He doesn't know you are here. He just wants a cup of coffee," one of his aides shouted. Qadhafi later agreed to answer a few questions and made a statement in Arabic.

Asked whether Libya would allow international inspections of the factory at Rabta, 60 kilometres southwest of Tripoli, Qadhafi said: "Yes, when it opens."

Libyan officials say the plant will start producing medicines in two to three months.

In his statement Qadhafi said Libya was willing to take part in all disarmament negotiations and favoured inspection of all weapons factories, provided all countries including the United States and Israel accepted the same conditions.

The unexpected sight of a smiling Qadhafi in the hotel set off

chaos. Journalists and camera crews knocked over potted plants, scrambled atop chairs and climbed over an ornamental fountain inside the lobby.

Qadhafi's appearance came a day after the Libyan government charged at a news conference and in official media that its planes were overwhelmed Wednesday by 14 "hostile American aircraft."

A government spokesman Friday said that the U.S. report that two American jets had acted in self-defence was "a fabrication."

The Libyan account appeared intended to counter the U.S. government's vigorous presentation of its own case in recent days.

Washington has provided television stations with videotape, taken by a U.S. aircraft, of Wednesday's attack, and shown photographs to the U.N. Security Council of what it said was a heavily armed Libyan plane involved in the encounter.

In other developments: — At least two MiG-23 jet fighters sat at Tripoli's airport Friday, poised to enter the takeoff runway. A day earlier, no military planes were seen on any runway. Increased security was noted at the headquarters of Qadhafi.

— A Western diplomat in Tripoli said he believed the United States and Libya had had "contacts" through a third country to defuse the tension.

— Rumours circulated that Qadhafi had ousted his military chief, but the reports could not be confirmed.

Rajah Abou Dahbous, secretary of the people's committee of Libyan information, or information ministry, told a news conference Friday evening that the U.S. navy jets launched a premeditated attack Wednesday on the Libyan planes.

He disputed Washington's account that two planes attached to the U.S. Sixth Fleet were set

upon by the Libyan MiG-23s.

"The truth is that 14, count them, attacked two Libyan planes on a normal reconnaissance flight," said Dahbous.

"The (U.S.) statements of the last couple of weeks show a pattern of premeditation," he added. "It is not by chance the (U.S.) fleet was off our coast."

At the U.N. Security Council, Libya's envoy branded the U.S. photographs "fake, fake, fake."

Libya had requested the Security Council meeting in New York to seek steps to prevent further clashes with U.S. forces.

American U.N. representative Vernon Walters, however, challenged Libyan claims that its warplanes had been unarmed.

"At the outset it was claimed that the Libyan planes were unarmed. We have photographs that prove the planes were armed," he told the delegates as he presented large, mounted pictures.

"The missile pods show quite clearly there were two different types of missiles hanging from the aircraft's wings and hanging from the under part of the fuselage," Walters said.

"These deliberate misstatements of fact tell the story so far as credibility is concerned," he added.

In London, the editor of Britain's respected Jane's Aviation Yearbook said a U.S. videotape of the clash released Thursday failed to prove the MiG-23s were about to attack.

"It could have been just an innocent wish to investigate what was out there," David Brinkman said of the Libyan fighters' repeated course changes towards the U.S. jets. "There could have been an intent to attack...but the video doesn't prove it to me," he added.

Later, Libyan Ambassador Ali Mustasser told reporters after emerging from the Security Council meeting, "We are in the country of Hollywood. But I still repeat, these photos and that radio tape is fake, fake, fake."

Third World U.N. members blasted the United States Friday and Washington's allies made no effort to defend the action.



A Beirut militiaman helps a child and her mother escape through a shell hole to a shelter amid continued fighting between fighters of the Amal militia and Hizbollah

Sinking of Saudi tanker raises mine fears in Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) — A Saudi Arabian tanker sank in the mouth of the Gulf Friday after an explosion and a fire, raising fresh fears of drifting mines in one of the world's busiest waterways.

The managers of the 36,964-tonne Sagheera said a mine was the most likely cause of the blast and military sources in Europe said mines laid elsewhere in the Iran-Iraq war could have drifted into the area.

But a Dutch navy spokesman said photographs of the fuel oil tanker showed blasted metal curling outwards, suggesting an internal explosion rather than a mine.

The captain and five crewmen were still missing following Thursday's blast in the mid-section of the ship, managed by Fujairah Shipping Company, as it sailed in ballast into the Gulf.

Helicopters rescued the 26 other crewmen from the blazing ship in rough seas.

"Fuel oil does not explode," said one shipping company executive in the Gulf. "Either (the ship) hit a mine or some gases which might have accumulated in the tanks somehow ignited."

Ten to 15 vessels, including a U.S. warship and some of the world's biggest tankers, hit mines during the eight years of Gulf war fighting.

On Dec. 14 four fishermen were injured when their vessel hit a mine off Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates near the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

At least a sixth of the Western world's crude oil supplies passes through the strait, while Gulf states rely on the waterway for their imports.

"There are no known mine danger areas left in the Gulf after joint (Western) navy efforts, but nobody knows what lies in the depths of (war) exclusion zones in the northern Gulf," said another shipping executive.

He said mines planted off the coasts of Iran and Iraq during the war could break loose from their moorings due to rusting and winter frosts and then drift south.

"From time to time warnings of drifting mines in the central Gulf around Bahrain or Saudi Arabia are heard on marine radio, but local or American (naval vessels) take care of those," said a captain linked to a Gulf shipping company.

Shipping lanes in the northern Gulf and the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway dividing Iran and Iraq are believed to be ridden with mines and shipwrecks.

Iranian navy commander Rear Admiral Hossein Malekzadegan said Jan. 1 that Iran was ready to help Gulf countries to clear their coasts of mines.

Tehran started to sweep its own waters for mines after the Aug. 20 ceasefire ended fighting between Iran and Iraq and Malekzadegan said in October two mine-sweeping ships in the northern Gulf and the Hormuz Strait had converged in the central Gulf.

The United States, with up to six Vietnam-war vintage minesweepers in the region, had found more than 160 mines in northern and central parts of the Gulf by late November.

A joint British, Belgian, Dutch, French and Italian mine-hunting effort ended last week after a sweep of major shipping lanes.

Amal, Hizbollah lock horns again

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Five people were killed in battles between rival militias in South Lebanon overnight but the toll from their fighting in west Beirut was not immediately known, police and security sources said Saturday.

Security sources in the southern port of Sidon told Reuters clashes between Amal and Hizbollah (Party of God) killed five people, including three militiamen, but eased by morning.

There were no reports on the number of casualties in west Beirut where police said hundreds of Syrian troops deployed overnight quelled the fighting.

An Amal spokesman said rival militias fought with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades after Hizbollah shot at houses in the Khadak Al Ghamik district of west Beirut Friday.

A Hizbollah spokesman said the South Lebanon battle began when Amal attacked positions of his fighters in the villages of Lowaizeh, Ain Boswar and Jahal Safi, in Iqlim Al Tufah district 60 kilometres south of Beirut.

Amal said the flare-up in the south began when Hizbollah gunmen fired on one of its positions.

Hizbollah and Amal fought pitched battles in west Beirut in November, killing at least 29 people and wounding 72.

The fighting ended when Syrian troops intervened, arresting at least 300 militiamen and confiscating weapons from both sides.

Altogether, 33 people have been killed and 92 wounded by police count since the new clashes erupted Dec. 31.

Hundreds of people have been

killed or wounded in nine months of intermittent fighting between the two factions, who are battling for dominance of Lebanon's one million Shi'ites, the country's largest sect.

The thud of exploding shells and the crackle of automatic weapons fire echoed across Beirut during the night as Amal militiamen staged hit-and-run attacks against Hizbollah positions near the western edge of the "green line" that divides Beirut.

Hizbollah responded by mortaring Amal-controlled districts of west Beirut in a bid to ease the pressure on its fighters, the police spokesman said.

Syrian troops armed with AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades moved into the contested sector before dawn to enforce a ceasefire, he reported.

Earlier clashes in Beirut centred mainly on the city's southern slums. But most of the current fighting has spilled out into west Beirut.

In Iran, Iranian President Ali Khamenei appealed at Friday prayers at Tehran university for an end to the bloodshed.

Amal leader Nabih Berri, in an interview with Beirut's weekly Al Nahar Arab and International magazine, blamed Iran for being behind the fighting in the suburb.

"There are conflicts among Iranians in dealing with the Shi'ite problem in Lebanon...the policy followed by the Iranian Interior Ministry regarding the Shi'ite problem is the main cause for these tragedies," Berri said.

Thai link seen in Saudi diplomat's killing

BANGKOK (R) — A message pinned to a pack of noodles has given police reason to suspect that the Thai underworld rather than Muslim militants murdered a Saudi Arabian diplomat here this week.

Police said Saturday a posted package of instant noodles addressed to Saleh Al Malki arrived at the 35-year-old third secretary's office Wednesday, the day he was shot dead by a gunman in Bangkok's commercial district.

A note in Thai script addressed Saleh, 35, to "kin wai-wai, tam ngan wai-wai," meaning to eat quickly and work quickly.

Since being posted here five months ago Saleh processed applications for the thousands of Thai labourers sent to Saudi Arabia. Police said his by-the-book handling of his job reduced the chances for Thai labour racketeers to pressure work appli-

cants for hundreds of dollars each.

Two militant groups in Lebanon have said they murdered Saleh. Deputy Police Commissioner Pravit Yongviset told reporters a political motive had not been ruled out but added that the Thai language message and other clues pointed increasingly to labour racketeers and the local underworld.

"We should be able to arrest the assassin in a few days," Pravit told reporters.

A police artist sketch based on witness descriptions shows the murder suspect as a Thai of swarthy complexion in his 30s. Police said the killer appeared to lack experience because he emptied all eight shots from his pistol at close range and missed five times.

Pravit said the competing claims by Muslim militants for the murder may have been a bid for publicity for their movements.

17 drug smugglers hanged in Iran in accelerated crackdown

NICOSIA (AP) — Seventeen drug smugglers have been hanged in Tehran and other cities, Iran's official media reported Saturday amid a nationwide anti-narcotics campaign in which 1,000 people have been arrested and scores killed in shootouts in recent weeks.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said 11 smugglers were convicted by a revolutionary court of running narcotics distribution networks in several cities, possessing 76 kilograms of heroin, 530 kilograms of opium, carrying illegal weapons and clashing with security forces.

The agency said some were executed in Tehran Qasr prison and others publicly hanged in Bani-Hashem Square in the northwest of the city.

Tehran Radio said another seven convicted smugglers were hanged Friday and Saturday in other Iranian cities.

These included Mashhad in the northwest, near the Afghan border, and Kerman and Zahedan in the southwest, a major smuggling route from neighbouring Pakistan.

The radio said several of the men executed were kidnappers in major narcotics rings operating in the southwest, one of the main targets of the crackdown launched following the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

A statement by the office of the prosecutor in charge of the anti-narcotics campaign handed the executed men as "the best examples of the corrupt on earth."

The executions were carried

out in advance of a draconian new law that take effect Jan. 21 under which the death sentence is mandatory for anyone caught carrying 30 grammes of heroin, morphine, cocaine or methadone or smuggling more than 5 kilograms of any narcotic.

Any person who is found responsible for addicting another faces a minimum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

The expediency council, set up by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last February to speed up legislation snarled up in Tehran's top-heavy bureaucratic machine, announced the new law Dec. 5.

It gave Iran's drug addicts six months from Jan. 19 to kick the habit or face imprisonment.

There are no official estimates available for the number of addicts in Iran, but officials have reported that drug abuse rose alarmingly during the eight-year-old war with Iraq.

Alarming increase

A ban on alcohol, worsening unemployment and the breakdown of political control in the first years of the revolution were also seen as major factors in an alarming increase in drug smuggling and opium growing in Iran.

Khomeini's fundamentalist regime executed hundreds of alleged drug smugglers in the early days of the revolution that toppled the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Most were sentenced, often on flimsy evidence, by Iran's notorious judge Sadeq Khalkhali. He was also head of an anti-narcotics

campaign until he was forced to resign because he could not account for millions of dollars seized in raids or amassed from fines.

The new crackdown is spearheaded by special task forces of revolutionary committees, known as Komitets, Revolutionary Guards and provincial security agencies.

In recent weeks, they have rounded up more than 1,000 people, seized several tons of heroin, opium and hashish and killed or wounded scores of heavily armed smugglers in gunbattles, Iran's official media have reported.

Most of the action was along the borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Officials said the smugglers bring in large quantities of drugs in caravans through the rugged regions. Some is used to supply Iranian addicts, but much is smuggled out again through Turkey, Iran's northeastern neighbour, to Western Europe.

Mahmoud Mir-Lohi, deputy commander of the revolutionary committees, said last month authorities have declared a long stretch of the border with Afghanistan a closed zone.

"No one should go near this area," he said. "Drug caravans use this area and are forced to have been ordered to deal firmly with any unauthorised person."

Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani declared last month that Iran's drug problem was "a blight that has ruined some of our youth."

King Hassan's patient policy in Sahara set to pay off

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

MARRAKESH, Morocco — King Hassan of Morocco's policy of sticking to his guns in the Western Sahara seems about to pay off after his first talks with Polisario guerrillas and a planned Maghreb summit.

Morocco's desert conflict with the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas over the former Spanish colony on the western bulge of Africa has soured relations in North Africa for nearly 13 years.

But diplomats said talks between King Hassan and a Polisario delegation Wednesday and Thursday at the royal palace in the ancient city of Marrakesh opened a new chapter in the saga.

"Having got the upper hand militarily, he has just waited for the right time for a diplomatic victory," said a Western diplomat based in the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

King Hassan's troops are already firmly in control of four-fifths of the territory, which is half the size of France.

Riots in Algeria, fears that Western Europe was turning its back on the region and his behind-the-scenes role in Africa helped the king recover diplomatic ground.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, reelected last month to a third term, is committed to good relations with Morocco and he is believed to have brokered the visit by the Polisario team.

As the team led by Bachir Mustapha Sayed arrived, officials announced a Maghreb summit of heads of state from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania for later this month in Marrakesh.

The five leaders will discuss cooperation — a common ideal on which progress has been hampered by the Western Sahara war, in which Libya has occasionally intervened on one side or the other.

Algeria, which restored diplomatic ties with Morocco in May, hailed the Marrakesh talks with the Polisario as an event which could create good will ahead of a U.N.-proposed referendum on the territory's future.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Moroccan newspapers, however, stressed Thursday that the official statement announcing the meeting was couched in language that made clear no major policy change or concession by Rabat.

A terse statement from the Ministry of Information said King Hassan and the team simply "discussed the situation in the provinces of the south."

No mention of the word Sahara was made.

L'Opinion, organ of the main opposition Istiqlal Party, said this implied there was no questionmark over the future

status of Western Sahara which would be confirmed as Moroccan by the referendum.

Al Bayane, organ of the leftist Party for Progress and Socialism, said the talks were a major step towards solving the dispute on Moroccan terms within a process that was "strictly Moroccan, Maghrebin, and finally, (of) the United Nations."

North African analysts have speculated that a political solution avoiding winners and losers could now be on the cards.

That could later be endorsed by the U.N.-sponsored vote and would prove groundless Mauritania fears that its poorly-defended borders would be crossed by disappointed Polisario fighters.

Guerrillas believed to have been operating on Mauritania territory shot down a U.S. aid plane last month by mistake, killing all five Americans on board.

A confident King Hassan told the French magazine Le

Point last month that no country in the region now spoke of creating an independent Saharan state but a referendum could be bloody.

The current peace plan proposed by the United Nations and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) calls for a referendum giving a clear choice between independence or integration with Morocco.

Rabat announced Thursday that Moussa Traore, president of Mali and OAU chairman, and the U.N.'s special envoy for the Western Sahara would visit Morocco next week for talks with the king.

Morocco and Mauritania were ceded administrative control of Western Sahara in 1976 when Spain withdrew. The Polisario refused to accept the deal and opened their guerrilla desert war of independence.

The remote region is people by the descendants of nomads who roamed over what is modern-day Algeria, Mauritania and Mali.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

20:00

20:30

21:00

21:30

22:00

22:30

... News in Arabic

... Only When I Laugh

Documentary: "The Silk Road"

... News in English

The Equalisers

PROGRAMME ONE

18:30

18:45

19:00

19:15

19:30

19:45

20:00

20:15

20:30

20:45

21:00

21:15

21:30

21:45

22:00

22:15

22:30

Koran

Programme review

Children programmes

News summary in Arabic

Local programme

Local series

Local programme

Programme review

Local series

News in Arabic

Arabic series

Programme review

Local programme

Variety programme

News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30

18:45

19:00

19:15

19:30

19:45

La Baby Sister

L'École des Femmes

... News in French

A documentary

... News in Hebrew

Varieties programme

20:00

20:30

21:00

21:30

22:00

22:30

... News in Arabic

... Only When I Laugh

Documentary: "The Silk Road"

... News in English

The Equalisers

PRAYER TIMES

06:00

06:30

07:00

07:30

08:00

08:30

Fajr

Dhuhr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

St. Sallie Church Tel. 661757

St. Francis Church in French

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623341.

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel.

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Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr

Dr. Issam Abu Riq

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Ferdows pharmacy

Al Asma pharmacy

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Dr. Issam Abu Riq

Firas pharmacy

Ferdows pharmacy

Al Asma pharmacy

changing to southerly and seas becoming wavy.

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Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 10, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

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Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 605326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295.

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 826605.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

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NIGHT DUTY

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Hindawi leaves for Geneva talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi left for Geneva Saturday to head Jordan's delegation to the 41st international education conference which is sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The eight-day conference will discuss educational policies and strategies after the secondary stage, new trends in secondary education and links between general education and vocational training.

On the agenda also are the following topics: Higher education, development of supervision and guidance of teachers, adult education and effects of various types of education on the community.

A draft resolution, already presented to the conference, reaffirmed the need for diversifying training, the inclusion of courses that would contribute to the transfer and development of science and technology, and for paving the way to open new institutions providing new specialisations in education.

Education in general, the draft resolution said, should benefit cultural, social, economic and technological development of societies to general and help should be offered on equal footing for all classes.



Rifai receives U.S. congressmen

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday receives three U.S. congressmen and their accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Jordan at the Prime Ministry (see story on page 1) (Petra photo)

Tawjihi examinations end today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The mid-year Tawjihi examination session, taken by more than 58,000 students in Jordan, comes to a close Sunday, but students will not be able to know their results before one month from now.

The Ministry of Education which organised the examination made available a total of 768 halls in different governorates and appointed teachers for supervision.

log the progress of the examination and for marking the papers afterwards.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Saturday made an inspection tour of a number of examination halls in the Amman Governorate and heard a briefing on the examination process.

He also met with students to hear their remarks about the examinations.

The minister was accompanied by the director of

Education Department in Amman region and other officials.

Hindawi had visited Tafleeb last week and inspected examination halls there in the wake of complaints aired in the local press about the nature of examination questions and the general atmosphere at the examination halls.

While touring the examination halls in Amman the minister said that all remarks about the examinations will be taken into account during the marking of examination papers.

Jordan, Oman discuss means to boost trade

MUSCAT (Petra, J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Omani Economic Committee opened a meeting here to discuss prospects for bolstering Jordanian-Omani relations and increase the volume of trade between them.

The meeting is cochaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tahbaa and his Omani counterpart Salem Ghazali whose teams will be involved in reviewing the present status of trade and will examine the prospect of increasing Jordan's imports of Omani fish and Omani imports of Jordanian national products,

especially medicine and vegetables. They will also discuss means to promote the role of the private sectors in both countries to contribute to the development of trade.

Both sides also hope to establish a holding company which will regulate and supervise the implementation of joint enterprises and will seek to sign agreements on bilateral cooperation in joint ventures, and land transport.

Jordan currently exports pharmaceutical products, carpets, furniture, domestic appliances and glass products to Oman.

Jordan takes part in talks on Arab boycott of Israel

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the Arab League Office for the Boycott of Israel which opened in Damascus Saturday.

The office's Amman branch director Mohammad Al Ru'ond is attending the meeting along with representatives of the Arab countries who will discuss the status of more than 100 foreign firms in the light of their response to a call by the office to stop their dealings with Israel.

The week-long meeting will

also discuss issues that emerged after one year of Palestinian uprising during which the Arab population boycotted Israel's goods as part of their resistance of occupation.

The office commissioner general Zuhair Aqeel delivered a speech in which he paid tribute to the Palestinian population and said that Israeli economy is now in deep trouble, because of the current uprising which caused a decline in tourism.

QAF starts course for staff employed in special education

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Saturday opened a week-long training course for newly appointed employees working in the field of rehabilitating mentally retarded children.

The 35 participants in the course, who represent 16 different rehabilitation centres in the country, will be given theoretical training and will do practical work on special education for the mentally retarded, sports activities

for the handicapped, techniques and methods in teaching handicapped children and training the handicapped in carrying out handicraft work, and also in helping the handicapped to develop speech abilities and methods of relating stories to the handicapped children.

Lecturers and specialists in the training course came from the University of Jordan and from rehabilitation centres.

Jordan, Iraq to discuss religious cooperation

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee on Religious Affairs is due to convene in Baghdad in the coming month to lay down details for joint action in Awqaf and Islamic affairs, according to an announcement here Saturday.

The announcement, made by Iraqi Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Abdullah Fadel in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two sides will discuss means of promoting their bilateral cooperation through a protocol that will organise the exchange of expertise and coordination in religious activities and conferences.

The Iraqi minister, who will co-chair the meeting with his Jordanian counterpart Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, said that next month's meeting will discuss matters related to the annual Islamic Cultural Week which is organised in Baghdad and Amman.

The cultural week, he said, will include seminars, Islamic book

exhibitions, and other activities organised jointly by the ministries of Awqaf in the two countries. Fadel said Jordan will also be among the Arab and Islamic countries taking part in a meeting of the Higher Council on Islamic Affairs which will convene in Baghdad on Feb. 10, with the participation of 200 scholars from around the world.

CORRECTION

In our issue of the Jordan Times, Saturday, Jan. 7, 1989, we erroneously reported that "a Royal Decree has been issued approving the nomination of Izzat Rashid Dajani as Jordan's honorary consul to the Seychelles." The correct report should have been "a Royal Decree has been issued approving the nomination of Dajani as the Seychelles' honorary consul to Jordan." The Jordan Times regrets this error.

Jerusalem leader finds urgent need for united Arab stand

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prospects for a just settlement of the Palestinian problem will remain elusive until the Arab World undertakes a serious and unified stand that would compel the United States to force Israel into dropping its defiance and intransigence, according to Jerusalem's former Governor Anwar Al Khatib.

Give Israel's disregard for world public opinion, and the fact that the intifada is forceful enough to disturb Israel's justice (for the Palestinians)... he is asking for justice that is attainable, and even that is impossible," he said.

Khatib believes the Soviet Union's rapprochement with the U.S. came as a result of the former's economic difficulties and its need for Western technology. That rapprochement, he

said, has helped solve many of the regional conflicts, but will not be of any use to the situation in the Middle East.

"The position of the Soviet Union on the Middle East issue is now closer than ever to the U.S. position," he said, adding that Arab states were insignificant to the Soviet Union. "We are neither their friends nor their enemies... And even if we were their enemies, our enmity does not bother them."

Palestinians in the occupied territories want peace because they are tired of living under occupation, "but they do not want to surrender" and get nothing in return, Khatib said. "Unity is the only solution to the problem."

"Palestinians will be saved only by unity — by a serious and united Arab front that threatens U.S. interests in the area," Khatib said.

He said the uprising had done away with the Palestinians' fear of the Israeli occupation forces.

"The intifada will continue," he said. "The Palestinian people are now at a stage of forming themselves as a people, a process which comes as a result of their suffering, persecution and their status as refugees."

Jordan's decision to sever all administrative and legal links with the West Bank, according to the former governor, has proved that it is with the Palestinians that the Israelis will have to deal.

"The so-called Jordanian option is finished," he said.

"Everyone is rebelling... women, children, merchants, lawyers... They are rebelling as a result of their frustration from the lack of movement towards a settlement of their problem."

He said the Palestinians' fear of the Israeli occupation forces, "The intifada will continue," he said. "The Palestinian people are now at a stage of forming themselves as a people, a process which comes as a result of their suffering, persecution and their status as refugees."

He said that the RSS supports new ideas and will soon establish an advanced centre for engineers to help them carry out design and produce components for machines and spare parts and help promote existing industries.

Referring to RSS's activities and programmes, Anani noted that they currently cover the development of oil shale, the utilisation of solar and wind power and building materials and helping the country find new water resources to meet nation's needs in the coming 20 years.

Recent estimates put Jordan's reserves of oil shale at 13 billion tonnes; and the RSS will try to contribute to the national effort to extract oil from shale; and the use of shale by-products in other

industries, Anani said. West Germany is currently helping the RSS to utilise solar and wind power; and the joint efforts have succeeded in developing solar heaters for domestic use. Solar power is being used at the Arab Potash Company plants near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, the dairy products in Ruseifa and emergency telephones along the main highways.

Anani said the RSS is currently involved in setting up a \$1.5 million solar energy project for Iraq near the common border with Jordan; and both countries are maintaining joint cooperation in the utilisation of solar energy with technical assistance from West Germany.

He said that solar heaters manufactured in Jordan are being exported to Malaysia, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

The RSS building research centre has developed a certain type of building material named Formula-5 involving the use of prefabricated and ordinary bricks for building. This low cost building material can resist earthquakes and is easy to use for setting up buildings, Anani pointed out.

He said a housing unit using this technique was carried out at Ruseifa and two Arab countries will use this technique in future.

He said another project undertaken by the RSS in cooperation with an American firm is to manufacture components and parts of helicopters which will be used for training purposes.

Parts of the helicopters, to be made in Jordan, will be owned and marketed by the American firm, Anani explained.

In order to give impetus to this drive, Anani noted, the RSS plans to open a college specialised in applied engineering which will award BA degrees in applied engineering to the graduates.

He said that the college, which should be able to absorb 800-1,000 students a year, will be opened in the coming academic year and its courses will be

oriented towards providing much needed technicians and engineers to carry out maintenance work in Jordanian businesses and factories.

The RSS also plans to establish a company in March under the name of the Jordanian technology group which will undertake the mission of adopting new ideas by young Jordanian scientists.

The new firm, for which offices will be opened and services supplied, will be placed at the disposal of investors and businessmen, Anani explained.

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He said another project undertaken by the RSS in cooperation with an American firm is to manufacture components and parts of helicopters which will be used for training purposes.

Parts of the helicopters, to be made in Jordan, will be owned and marketed by the American firm, Anani explained.

In order to give impetus to this drive, Anani noted, the RSS plans to open a college specialised in applied engineering which will award BA degrees in applied engineering to the graduates.

He said that the college, which should be able to absorb 800-1,000 students a year, will be opened in the coming academic year and its courses will be

oriented towards providing much needed technicians and engineers to carry out maintenance work in Jordanian businesses and factories.

The RSS also plans to establish a company in March under the name of the Jordanian technology group which will undertake the mission of adopting new ideas by young Jordanian scientists.

The new firm, for which offices will be opened and services supplied, will be placed at the disposal of investors and businessmen, Anani explained.

He said that the RSS supports new ideas and will soon establish an advanced centre for engineers to help them carry out design and produce components for machines and spare parts and help promote existing industries.

Referring to RSS's activities and programmes, Anani noted that they currently cover the development of oil shale, the utilisation of solar and wind power and building materials and helping the country find new water resources to meet nation's needs in the coming 20 years.

Recent estimates put Jordan's reserves of oil shale at 13 billion tonnes; and the RSS will try to contribute to the national effort to extract oil from shale; and the use of shale by-products in other

industries, Anani said. West Germany is currently helping the RSS to utilise solar and wind power; and the joint efforts have succeeded in developing solar heaters for domestic use. Solar power is being used at the Arab Potash Company plants near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, the dairy products in Ruseifa and emergency telephones along the main highways.

Anani said the RSS is currently involved in setting up a \$1.5 million solar energy project for Iraq near the common border with Jordan; and both countries are maintaining joint cooperation in the utilisation of solar energy with technical assistance from West Germany.

He said that solar heaters manufactured in Jordan are being exported to Malaysia

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

A budget to reflect adjustment

By Dr. Fahed Faneek

THE MARKET was attentive to the announcement of the budget for 1989 to make a judgment on the seriousness of the government in carrying out its commitment to financial austerity and prudence, especially after the monetary crisis which shook the market in 1988.

Expectations varied widely, but the budget came as no surprise. Its normal size is 1 per cent down, recurring expenditure is 4.2 per cent up, and capital expenditure is 10 per cent down.

Perhaps the best way to read a budget is to start from the bottom up. The bottom line in 1989 budget indicates a deficit of JD122.2 million. This amount is around half the actual deficit sustained in 1988, but double the deficit envisaged by the budget of 1988. If what happened in 1988 is an indicator to what may happen in 1989, the final deficit may be much higher, especially in view of the natural tendency to overestimate revenues and under estimate expenditure resulting in an understated deficit.

Deficit in 1989 budget is actually higher than the above suggested figure, because the developmental loans of JD103 million were — as always — classified as revenues. Thus the planned deficit is effectively JD225 million or 13 per cent of GDP, of which JD103 million will be covered from external development loans (70%) and internal borrowing (30%), while the

balance will be covered by commercial loans and from the Central Bank.

In order for the government to keep the deficit within the determined limits, it has not only to achieve the estimated revenues but also to receive more Arab aid than was actually received in 1988. This is of course an optimistic position which could not have been taken by the Ministry of Finance unless they have dependable assurances that Arab aid will be forth coming.

Of course, economists have to take into account that the purchasing power of the JD in 1989 will be around 20 per cent lower. The fact that the government kept its public expenditure within 99 per cent of the actual expenditure of 1988, means an implicit cut in expenses of over 20 per cent. This is a remarkable measure of reduction, provided of course that the government will adhere strictly to the allocations stipulated in the budget document.

Over 20 per cent of the budget or JD209.7 million were devoted to debt service, local and external. Around half of this allocation or JD108.4 million represents interest, and the other half or JD101.3 million represents instalments. The share of external debt service is 70 per cent of the total debt service, while 30 per cent only will go to service domestic public debt.

The allocations for external debt service came out at below 30 per cent of the independently estimated debt service of the country for 1989. Apparently the public corporations and military loans were not included in the central government budget. It is also very likely that a rescheduling arrangement may take place in 1989, to scale down debt service for sometime, to enable the country to readjust the economy.

The Minister of Finance pointed out strong and weak areas in the economy. On the positive side he cited enlightened leadership, flexibility of the economic system, the openness of the economy, the stability and security of the society, the maturity of the people, and the adequacy of the public services.

On the negative side the minister pointed out four imbalances, such as the insufficiency of commodity output, the deficit in the budget, the deficit in the balance of payments, and the unemployment in the labour market. He did not elaborate on how the budget will specifically deal with each of these important imbalances. Overall, the budget could not be dismissed as irrelevant to the current economic difficulties. It is rather realistic and can be considered a step in the right direction, provided of course that the government will observe its limits strictly as the minister promised.

Hypocrisy at its peak

IN A nutshell, Washington's bellicose concern over a Libyan plant suspected of manufacturing chemical weapons is flawed on legal grounds: The 1925 Geneva Convention on chemical weapons bans the first use, but not the possession or manufacture, of chemical weapons. Accordingly, from a strictly legal point of view, no-one on earth can challenge Libya's right or rather option to manufacture chemical weapons. That is why the Paris international conference on chemical weapons which started Saturday will have to close the existing dangerous gaps in the international treaty, namely, the production and export of poison gases. But to do that countries which already have chemical weapons — among which one will find the major powers including the superpowers — would have to renounce the production and possession of such weapons in addition to committing themselves against their first use. The big question thus remains whether the Paris conference would go as far as outlawing the production and possession of chemical weapons. If not, all those who profess concern over Libya's alleged manufacture of poison gases would remain empty-handed juridically speaking.

The advanced nations of the world can indeed set the proper example by yielding to common sense and allow for the plugging the two principal loopholes that exist in the 1925 convention of chemical weapons. This would strengthen the bands and arguments of the international community in its determination to wipe out mass destruction weapons from the face of the earth.

Of course such big lecturing countries would appear more credible and less double-faced were they to agree to eliminate the manufacture, possession and use of nuclear weapons as well. For as long as hypocrisy continues to shape the policies of the industrial nations on mass destructive weapons, the chances of ever controlling the proliferation of chemical weapons and other similar systems of weapons would continue to be undermined.

To be sure man has a permanent vested interest in the elimination of mass destruction weapons. The on-going Paris conference of chemical weapons is one way, albeit modest and incomplete. The conference must succeed in incorporating the necessary supplementary provisions in the 1925 convention as the stakes for humanity are indeed formidable.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Saturday underlined the importance of pan-Arab backing for the PLO and its drive to achieve a lasting peace. The paper pointed out that Jordan was continuing its unlimited support for the Palestinian people and the PLO, but it said that more concerted pan-Arab backing is needed. The King's talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian delegation Friday and the Monarch's continued endeavours on the pan-Arab and international levels represent Jordan's clear policies in support of the Palestinians and current efforts being focused on the convening of an international conference to find a lasting settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper said. Jordan is not satisfied with this role but its endeavours also aimed at backing the uprising of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories after succeeding in fending off all forms of pressure to change its position, the paper added. It said that what is needed now is an all-out Arab support for the current endeavours for peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily writes Saturday on the Palestine problem and the unity between Jordan and Palestine in confronting the common enemy and for the sake of attaining the common goal. Abdul Rahim Omar says that Jordanians and Palestinians living here or abroad have so many things in common; and the Palestine question serves as a common denominator and as a focal point in their common drive to rally the Arabs and the world community for assisting the oppressed people of Palestine. Jordan's political and economic policies are geared towards helping their brothers, the Palestinian people, to regain their rights; and the Kingdom had served since 1948 as a field of struggle for both the Palestinians and Jordanians in confrontation with the common enemy, and indeed Jordan and its people have formed a real source of strength for the Palestinians in the political, economic and military fields, the writer points out. He says that King Hussein's efforts and Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank paved the way for the PLO leadership to pursue endeavours worldwide to advocate the cause of the Palestinians. But, he adds, all that has been achieved at the U.N. and throughout the world represented a mere first step in the long march towards a settlement, since the common Israeli enemy continues to commit massacres against the Palestinians and continues to occupy Arab land and is determined to perpetuate its occupation of Palestine.

Al Dustour daily described Arafat's talks with the King as part of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian diplomatic effort which so far achieved real success. Jordan is indeed delighted over the PLO's successes in the international arena and continues to back the PLO's contacts and activities for reaching peace, the paper noted. It said that King Hussein voiced Jordan's unwavering backing for Arafat and his efforts, and there is no doubt that the Monarch will maintain his endeavours in the Arab World and abroad to help the PLO leadership attain national objectives of the Palestinian people. Arafat's constant consultations with the King on every move manifests the Palestinian leader's total and absolute confidence that Jordan will continue to lead the way in all matters related to the Palestinian people's rights, and that it will pursue the struggle to help them attain their goal.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described the Palestinian-Jordanian talks in Amman as crowning the latest series of diplomatic efforts worldwide in support of the people of Palestine in their drive to attain freedom. The paper noted that the joint successes were triggered by Amman's decision to sever ties with the West Bank, which the paper noted, had opened the way for the PLO leadership to back the uprising at the international level and in all diplomatic circles.

Palestine movement — from liberation to independence

Edward Said, Professor of English literature at Columbia University, is a prominent member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). He attended the Nov. 12-15 PNC session during which an independent Palestinian state was declared. In the following article, which originally appeared in the Dec. 12 issue of the Nation magazine, Said reflects on the proceedings of the session and the implications of the resolutions and political programme adopted during the session for Palestinians and for the world at large.

THE NINETEENTH session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), formally titled the "Infidada Meeting," was momentous and, in many great and small ways, unprecedented. There were fewer hangers-on, groupies and "observers" than ever before. Security was tighter and more unpleasant than during the 1987 PNC session, also held in Algiers. The three-and-a-half day convocation also accomplished more than any Palestinian meeting in the post-1948 period. Above all, it secured for Yasser Arafat his place in Palestinian and world history.

None of the approximately 380 members came to Algiers with any illusion that Palestinians could again get away simply with creative ambiguity or solid affirmations of the need to struggle. The infidada's momentum and its ability to have created a clear civil alternative to the Israeli occupation regime necessitated a definitive statement of support by the PNC. This required an unambiguous claim for sovereignty over whatever Palestinian territories were to be vacated by the occupation. There also had to be an equally unambiguous statement on peaceful resolution of the conflict between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews, based on U.N. Resolutions 181 (partition), 242 and 338. In short, the PNC was asking of itself nothing less than an emphatic transformation: from liberation movement to independence movement. Jordan's severing of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank made the need for transformation urgent and compelling.

Everyone gathering in Algiers knew that this profound step was Arafat's first to define, then to persuade us to take, then finally to choreograph politically. When I arrived, he handed me the Arabic draft of the declaration of statehood and asked me to render it into English. It had been written by a committee, then rewritten by Mahmoud Darwish, then, alas, covered with often ludicrously clumsy insertions and incoherent deletions. Darwish later told me that the "Old Man" had struck the phrase "collective memory" because, we opined, he took it as poetic. "Tell him it has a serious and even scientific meaning," Darwish implored me; "maybe he'll listen to you." He

didn't, and I didn't listen when Arafat wanted other, mistaken phrases inserted.

Perhaps the oddest thing about this PNC — with its obsessive postmodern rhetorical anxieties — was that we discussed the two main documents (the declaration of statehood and the political resolutions) in public debates for hours on end without a piece of paper before us. After the opening ceremonies Saturday, the Council divided itself into two committees, the political and the infidada. Arafat had the texts memorised, and Nabil Shaath, brilliantly adroit chair of the political committee, had them before him. All relevant discussion took place in the riveting atmosphere of that committee, with speaker after speaker sounding off on what after all was the most significant political moment in Palestinian life since 1948. Words, commas, semicolons and paragraphs were the common talk of each recess, as if this were a convention of grammarians.

The heart of the debate was articulated by George Habash and Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf), the first an opponent of the by now well-known substance of the political programme, the second Arafat's key supporter and one of the main leaders of Fatah. Habash's express reservations concerned

the clear acceptance of 242 and 338, resolutions unfriendly to Palestinians not only because they treat us simply as "refugees" but also because they contain an implicit pre-negotiating recognition of Israel. This, Habash said, was going too far too soon; there had been agreement that such tough issues as recognition, 242, borders, etc., would be handled at the international conference. Why, Habash asked, must we go forward on everything before the conference? He spoke passionately, saying without hesitation that he and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine wished to remain in the PLO no matter what the outcome of

the political committee, and immediately afterward the whole PNC was reconvened in plenary session. Habash and supporters fought each sentence almost word by word on the crucial 242/338 paragraph, which was voted on in different forms half a dozen times. The ungainly paragraph that resulted shows the effect of those battles, although the substance remains unmistakable. At one point Arafat stood up and recited the entire programme from memory, indicating where the clause, sentence and paragraph breaks occurred, so that there could be no mistake about meaning, emphasis, conclusion. For the first time in PNC history,

The point is not that the council's documents are perfect and complete but that they must be interpreted as everyone in Algiers intended — as a beginning that signals a distinct break with the past, as an assertion of willingness to make sacrifices in the interests of peace, as a definitive statement of the Palestinian acceptance of the international consensus.

the disagreements. To which, in a superbly meandering and yet fascinating speech, Abu Iyad said that decisions had to be made now, not only in the face of the discouraging realities of the Israeli elections but because our people needed an immediate, concrete statement of our goals. What clinched it for me was the logic of Abu Iyad's thesis that decisive clarity was necessary principally for ourselves and our friends, not because our enemies kept hectoring us to make more concessions.

By about 9:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, the political programme had been passed by a large major-

voting by acclamation wasn't going to be enough; Habash had insisted on precise tallies, which emerged to his disadvantage: 253 for, 46 against, 10 abstaining. There was a sad nostalgia to what he represented, since in effect by voting against him we were taking leave of the past as embodied in his defiant gestures. The declaration ceremonies that closed the meetings were jubilant, yet somehow melancholy.

About this break with the past there could be no doubt whatever. To declare statehood on the basis of Resolution 181 was first of all to say unequivocally that an Arab Palestinian and an Israeli

state should coexist in a partitioned Palestine. Self-determination would thus be for two peoples, not just for one. Most of us there had grown up with the reality (lived and remembered) of Palestine as an Arab country, refusing to concede anything about peace, partition and statehood in the 1964 Palestinian National Covenant are flatly contradicted by the 1988 PNC resolutions. All the refusals, attacks and insults heaped on the Council's results, both by Israel and the usual array of U.S. "experts," signify consternation. Clearly, the more Palestinians take responsible and realistic positions, the less acceptable we become, not just because Palestinians want peace but because Israelis don't know what to do when peace is offered to them. There is a dispiriting continuity here between the early days of Israel's existence, when Ben-Gurion refused peace with the Arabs, and the all-out rejection trundled out today by Likud and Labour alike.

The point is not that the council's documents are perfect and complete but that they must be interpreted as everyone in Algiers intended — as a beginning that signals a distinct break with the past, as an assertion of willingness to make sacrifices in the interests of peace, as a definitive statement of the Palestinian acceptance of the international consensus.

A few days before the Algiers meeting Ariel Sharon appeared on Italian television vociferating about the need to kill Arafat. That no comparable sentiment was expressed in Algiers about an Israeli leader testifies eloquently to the real difference now between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. These are dangerous times for Palestinians; the occupation will get worse, and assassinations and full-scale political war will intensify. For once, however, the record is unmistakable as to who is for peace, who for bloodshed and suffering. But our campaign for peace must be joined.

What I cannot understand or condone is how the U.S. media — quite unlike that in the rest of the world — has internalised the rejectionism promulgated by the Israeli and U.S. establishments. Far from reading the texts as they were meant to be read, commentators persist in suggesting that whatever was said in the texts could not, by definition, be enough. Why is Israel not asked whether it is willing to coexist with a Palestinian state, or negotiate, or accept 242, or renounce violence, or recognise the PLO, or accept demilitarisation, or allow Palestinian fears, or stop killing civilians, or end the occupation, or answer any questions at all? Perhaps the media will break their silence, as Palestinians already have.

Thirdly, the rejection of terrorism (also affirmed in the declaration) emphatically distinguishes between resistance to occupation, to which Palestinians are entitled according to the U.N. Charter and international law, and indiscriminate violence against civilians by states or by individuals and groups. Note that there exists no all-purpose definition of terrorism, one that has international validity and impartiality of application. Also note that Israel has always arrogated to itself the right to attack civilians in the

name of its security. Finally and most important, all the resolutions clearly intend willingness to negotiate directly. There are no disclaimers about the "Zionist entity," or about the legitimacy of Israeli representatives. All the relevant passages about peace, partition and statehood in the 1964 Palestinian National Covenant are flatly contradicted by the 1988 PNC resolutions. All the refusals, attacks and insults heaped on the Council's results, both by Israel and the usual array of U.S. "experts," signify consternation. Clearly, the more Palestinians take responsible and realistic positions, the less acceptable we become, not just because Palestinians want peace but because Israelis don't know what to do when peace is offered to them. There is a dispiriting continuity here between the early days of Israel's existence, when Ben-Gurion refused peace with the Arabs, and the all-out rejection trundled out today by Likud and Labour alike.

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Palestine embassy opens

(Continued from page 1)

once the Palestinian state is established.

He said the Palestinian embassy in Jordan had no special legal status, but that it had a special and distinguished role reflecting the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and between the Jordanian government and the PLO.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said the hoisting of the flag was a confirmation of the Jordanian position supporting the independent Palestinian state. "It is a sign of support (both) to the independent state and the Palestinian political initiative," he told reporters at the embassy.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were Interior Minister Rajal Dajani and Information Minister Hani Khasawneh, in addition to PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and a number of PLO officials and Executive Committee members.

Qatar and China announced Saturday that they would upgrade the PLO mission in their capitals to embassies. Countries that have already given the PLO offices in their capitals embassy status are Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.

The King's meeting with Arafat earlier was attended on the Jordanian side by Rifai and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, Abdul Razzak Al Yahya and Mohammad Milhem, in addition to Arafat advisor Hani Al Hassan.

Arafat also said the U.S. downing of two Libyan jets last Wednesday would damage efforts for Middle East peace.

"We believe this incident will reflect negatively on the march of peace in the region and escalate the situation," he told reporters shortly after the inauguration of the embassy in Amman.

(Continued from page 1)

bombs were thrown at a parked truck in the Gilo neighbourhood, causing slight damage, police said.

In the Gaza Strip, curfews imposed overnight remained in force on Nuseirat, Deir Al Balagh, Shati' camps and on Rafah town. Palestinians said the army also imposed a curfew on Shaboura camp Saturday.

The underground leaders of the uprising called on the United States Saturday to recognise an independent Palestinian state and the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The leadership said in a communique, telefaxed to the AP in Cyprus by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, that the U.S. decision last month to open direct talks with the PLO "is considered a modest minimum" for accepting the Americans as a political mediator in the Middle East peace process.

The communique declared: "The PLO warns against dragging the dialogue into a labyrinth of prevarication and disregard for

14 Palestinians wounded

(Continued from page 1)

the blood of the martyrs and the great sacrifices of our people."

The communique said that the uprising was a key factor in pushing Washington to end a 13-year ban on negotiations with the PLO.

The communique said that the United States "should accompany its dialogue with a formal recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative (of the Palestinians) and our national rights of self-determination and

sovereignty of our homeland."

The communique also called on European countries to upgrade PLO offices in their capitals to embassy status following the declaration of an independent Palestinian state in November by the Palestine National Council.

The communique said, the Europeans should also press for an international Middle East peace conference at which the PLO would attend on an equal footing with other parties

(Continued from page 1)

harshly as a colony during 20 years of Hirohito's rule, and by some Chinese who held Hirohito accountable for the Japanese invasion of China in World War II.

Hirohito died in the moat-ringed palace where he had stayed most of the time, a remote figure who was known, however, as an eminent marine biologist and avid fan of sumo, a traditional

Hirohito passes away

(Continued from page 1)

Japanese form of wrestling. Hirohito wrote 12 books on hydrozoans, small sea animals.

The world's oldest imperial line — held by the same family since at least the 8th century and by legend since 660 B.C. — passed automatically to Akihito.

If tradition is followed, there will be at least 61 different ceremonies over the next two years until Akihito is formally enthroned.



Last Reagan budget to propose an end to 80 U.S. programmes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan plans one last try to slash spending by proposing the elimination of about 80 government programmes in his fiscal 1990 budget proposal, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Friday.

"Our budget will eliminate some 80 programmes... programmes that we had proposed for elimination in the past, but didn't receive for one reason or another," Fitzwater said.

Previous Reagan efforts to wipe out a variety of domestic programmes including urban development grants and Amtrak rail system subsidies have been regularly rebuffed by Congress. Fitzwater said Reagan's final budget, to be made public Monday, will project a deficit of about \$95 billion compared to \$155 billion in fiscal 1988, which was completed last September, and between \$145 billion and \$155 billion this year.

White House budget experts say the deficit would total \$127 billion in the 1990 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 if current policies are retained. Congressional analysts are projecting a \$141 billion deficit under current policy.

Fitzwater said Reagan's budget would propose spending cuts of between \$32 billion and \$35 billion.

Fitzwater hinted that the Reagan budget will include some revenue-raising measures, such as increased user fees for government services, but said there would be no tax increases.

Separately, President-elect Bush renewed his pledge against raising taxes as a way to reduce the deficit.

Discussing jobs data released Friday, Bush told reporters he would seek further cuts in joblessness and that "one way to not do that is to slow the economy down by raising taxes."

Bush campaigned on a no-tax platform, telling audiences: "Read my lips. No new taxes." He has called deficit reduction his number one priority and said it can be accomplished by freezing overall federal spending.

Bush said Friday he would make his own budget proposals shortly in an address to Congress shortly after he becomes president Jan. 20.

Unemployment report reflects strong economy

Meanwhile, the government's

December employment report reflects a U.S. economy that finished the year as vigorously as it started, economists said.

The Labour Department said Friday that the nation's civilian unemployment rate matched a 14-year low of 5.3 per cent in December, down from 5.4 per cent in November.

At the same time, the job growth slowed last month, with 279,000 non-farm jobs created in December after a surge of 404,000 in November, the department said.

But job growth in the final quarter of 1988 was still at a strong 919,000, pushing payrolls up to 107.7 million, a gain of 3.7 million from the end of 1987.

Economists view job growth as a leading indicator which foreshadows economic trends.

Based on the latest gain, some economists expect the U.S. non-farm economic growth rate in the fourth quarter will be between 3.5 and 4.0 per cent, although total growth is expected to be lower because of crop and livestock losses from last summer's drought.

"It seems to be more of the same, which to me means robust economic growth," said economist Michael Penzer of Bank of America. "Job growth in the fourth quarter was very similar on

average to what it was in the first three quarters."

"The jobs increase was solid," added economist Allen Sinai. "It certainly was indicative of a strong economy."

The economy started the year with a robust 3.4 per cent annual growth rate in the first three months and slipped to a 3.0 per cent rate in the second quarter. In the third period it fell to a 2.5 per cent rate, although the non-farm rate was still a vibrant 3.1 per cent.

The government will issue its first estimate of the economy's fourth quarter performance Jan. 27.

December's job growth was mostly in services-producing industries, where 230,000 jobs were added in the wholesale, retail, finance and health industries and in government.

Only 49,000 of the jobs created in December were in goods-producing industries, mostly in factories.

Manufacturing industry job growth has been brisk over the past year, with more than 400,000 jobs added to payrolls as factories geared up to meet booming export demand.

The rapid pace of overall job growth over the past year has been a source of concern for financial markets.

Indonesia sees chance for higher oil prices

JAKARTA (R) — Oil prices could rise further if producers keep a lid on exports, Indonesia's energy minister said Saturday.

"If non-OPEC countries cut production by five per cent and all OPEC members stick to their quotas then we can see \$18 before June... the sooner we restore prices the earlier we can produce more oil," Ginjar Kartasamita said.

"By mid-1990 it could be \$20 but done in such a way that won't cause instability in the economies of our consumers. We should not create recession or inflation but prices should rise in a manner supported by the markets," he said.

"I think OPEC has learned its lesson and is not going to make another mistake," he added.

The OPEC agreement in November in Vienna was designed to stop excessive production of oil which was undermining prices.

Ginjar was speaking to Reuters in an interview shortly after Indonesia, OPEC's only Asian member, announced it would calculate its budget for the next financial year at \$14 a barrel.

The current price for Indonesia's Minas crude is around \$16. "I am surprised prices have increased and are getting better so soon. I didn't expect prices would go above \$14 in June. It's way beyond our expectations," he said.

Although the rise was partly psychological "I think fundamental factors are supporting the price," he added.

January heralded the start of a six-month pledge by all 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to keep exports down and aim for a price of \$18.

The recent price rise suggested world stocks of oil may not be as high as believed and supplies were limited partly due to increased demand in Japan and lower production in the North Sea, he said.

He dismissed speculation that the United Arab Emirates was exceeding its OPEC quota. "If it was true, it would have had some effect on the market," he said.

Although most of the oil producing group's problems had been solved it still needed a long-term strategy. "If we can have permanent quotas that would be ideal," he said.

Ginjar leaves Sunday for fellow OPEC countries Venezuela and Ecuador along with non-member producers Colombia and Mexico. Indonesia, Asia's largest oil exporter, is one of six OPEC countries which have formed a committee to reestablish contact with non-OPEC oil producers.

Ecuador Energy Minister Diego Tamaziz said last week the two sides would meet soon to get independent oil producers to cut production and bolster prices.

"We will see how we can work together to maintain stability in the market. I hope they (non-OPEC members) can come up with restraints as a response to OPEC's voluntary cuts," Ginjar said. "Any non-OPEC cut will be helpful. The higher the cut the better."

But OPEC would need to sort out its remaining problems before there could be any meeting of member heads of state which has been suggested by Venezuela.

Any summit should look to the future and must be preceded by carefully prepared ministerial talks, Ginjar said.

U.S. crude oil prices may test \$18 this week

In New York, industry analysts said U.S. crude oil prices, which ended the first week of 1989 about 30 cents a barrel higher, may test the \$18 mark this week on prospects of lower output by OPEC and production problems in the North Sea.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange the February contract in West Texas Intermediate, the key U.S. crude, closed Friday at \$17.55 a barrel, up 13 cents on the day and an increase of 31

cents from the previous Friday.

"It seems as if we have all the signals pointing to higher prices," said Nauman Barakat, vice president of energy investments at Prudential-Bache Securities Inc.

Barakat said signs that OPEC intends, at least initially, to adhere to its new production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day has strengthened prices. Oil production by several non-OPEC countries has also declined, Barakat said.

U.S. oil prices rose on news of production losses stemming from accidents in the North Sea and a possible squeeze in the North Sea Brent 15-day forward crude market, analysts said.

A squeeze is anticipated because a trading company has done a series of deals in London in which it bought January and sold February contracts, and appears to be cornering the market in the 15-day forward contract.

If a squeeze on January Brent crude materialises, U.S. oil prices could rise to \$18.25 a barrel by mid-month, said Jayne Ball of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Supply is already tight due to production cutbacks of more than 10 per cent in the North Sea following a series of accidents there, traders said.

An explosion shut down one of four production platforms in the Brent Field Jan. 1. The platform may start partial production in seven to 10 days, according to a spokesman for Royal Dutch/Shell group, which operates the platform.

U.K. crude production was further hampered when a storage tanker broke free from its moorings in the North Sea recently, leaving three oilfields without a central collection point. Officials said it could take several weeks to repair the damage to the tanker.

Norway sees no rise in oil prices despite OPEC pact

Opposing the previous comments, Norwegian Oil Minister Arne Oeien said Friday in Kuwait that world oil prices were unlikely to rise during the next few months despite a new OPEC output pact effective from Jan. 1.

"The best we can hope for is that the present price level can be maintained for the next couple of months," he told reporters on arrival in Kuwait, a major OPEC oil producer, for talks with the emir, prime minister and oil minister.

Norway, while not a member of OPEC, has curbed planned output growth to help the group stabilise prices.

Oeien said Norway, Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain, was doing all it could to help OPEC. The government last month extended for another six months a 7.5 per cent cut in planned output growth first introduced in February 1987.

Oeien welcomed any similar moves by other independent producers but said Norway would not be attending a meeting of non-OPEC states scheduled for Jan. 25 in London.

"If these meetings are doing to have any sense it must be because the participating countries have something to contribute. At this stage we have nothing further to contribute. Then I think the best thing is to stay out of it," he said.

"It has been our policy to support OPEC by unilateral measures. It would be a new thing if we entered into any sort of multinational agreement. That does not mean I am ruling (it) out for the future," he added.

He said he did not expect the Kuwaiti oil minister to ask Norway directly to cut its actual as opposed to planned production.

"I expect Ali Khalifa to point out that this would help stabilise the oil market. But since we are not members of OPEC I don't expect him to make any demands," Oeien said.

Norwegian production, now running around 1.2 million b/d, is due to increase to some 1.5 million b/d by mid-year as new capacity comes on stream.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

French firm to search for oil off Qatar

NICOSIA (R) — The French oil company STE Nationale ELF Aquitaine signed an agreement Saturday to search for oil in the Gulf off Qatar, the Qatar News Agency said. Oil Minister Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani signed a three-year accord with the company for exploration in deep waters, said the agency, monitored in Nicosia. Qatar, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has an output quota of 314,200 barrels per day.

Petroleum exports earn Algeria \$6.3b

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria produced 32 million tonnes of crude oil, 17.5 million tonnes of condensate, 3.5 million tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas and 93 billion cubic metres of natural gas last year, a government minister has said. Energy Minister Sadek Bousselman also told the official Arabic daily Ech Chaah in an interview that Algeria's petroleum and gas reserves were estimated at 4.2 billion tonnes of petroleum equivalent, of which 70 per cent was gas. He said petroleum exports in 1988 were worth 44 billion dinars (about \$6.3 billion). The government planned to intensify efforts to find new deposits and to increase exports of natural gas from 26 billion cubic metres to 40 billion within the next five years, he said. It was hoped to develop gas exports by finding new markets in Europe, Africa and Japan, he said, stressing the importance of two gas pipeline projects: One across Morocco to Spain and the other across Tunisia to Libya. Algeria is to resume negotiations with France soon on a long-standing dispute over natural gas deliveries.

Taiwan-Vietnam sea link to open soon

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A Vietnamese company plans to begin a shipping service to Taiwan, an example of crumbling trade barriers between communist countries and this anti-communist island. Liu Jen-feng, an official of Sankyo Shipping Co., has quoted an official of Vietnam's state-run Saigon Shipping Co. as saying his firm hoped to begin service to Taiwan in February or March. The

Vietnamese official, Ngo Luc Pai, made the statement during a visit to Taiwan's southern port of Kaohsiung, Liu said. Liu quoted Ngo as saying that a fleet of 14 freighters would travel between Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, and Kaohsiung. The nationalist Chinese government of Taiwan last month lifted a ban on direct shipping between Taiwan and Vietnam as part of a policy to ease restrictions on trade with communist countries. Kan Pei-Chung, a division chief of the Kaohsiung Port Bureau, said that move effectively scraps a ban on direct trade with Hanoi. A group of Taiwanese businessmen visited Vietnam in August and reportedly ordered lumber, scrap iron and rattan. Taiwan bans direct trade with China, the Soviet Union and some other communist countries but allows indirect trade through third countries. Taipei and Hanoi do not have diplomatic relations.

NYMEX to become partner in Globex

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) have reached an agreement in principle under which NYMEX will become a partner in Globex, a unique after-hours trading system. Globex is a global automated futures and options trading system being developed by the CME and Reuters that will enable traders to conduct business electronically after regular market hours. The agreement makes NYMEX the first exchange to join the CME as a partner in the launch of the after-hours transaction system. The agreement will enable NYMEX to list any or all of its energy futures and options contracts as well as its platinum group metals on the Globex system. NYMEX's 816 members would have access to the Chicago futures market in crop and livestock products as well as stock indexes, treasury bills, foreign currencies and eurodollars. Like the CME, NYMEX will list its products for trading on Globex only outside its regular trading hours. Globex will not interfere with or alter the "open outcry" transaction system used on both exchanges. The new system will save both exchanges the expense of extending trading hours to coincide with futures market trading in Europe and Asia.

Dollar surges, Dow index hits post-crash high

NEW YORK (R) — The dollar raced to a 2½ month high Friday, propelled by a belief that central banks were not zealous in trying to knock it lower and that the death of Emperor Hirohito could weaken the Japanese yen.

Stock prices were also strong. A modest drop in the unemployment rate provided evidence that the U.S. economy was not overheating, allowing investors to put aside interest-rate worries and push the Dow index to another post-crash high.

The dollar got its first boost Friday when Bundesbank Vice President Helmut Schlesinger said he did not expect the currency to fall soon. Dealers rushed to the buy side despite central bank selling to temper the rise.

The dollar ended at 1.8170 Deutschmarks, against Thursday's closing 1.7995. It also rose to 126.75 yen from 126.00 at the previous close.

In an interview with Reuters, Schlesinger said he believed U.S. authorities were satisfied with current exchange rates. In reference to recent Bundesbank dollar selling, Schlesinger said, "what we are doing now is not intervention in the usual sense. Not, for example, with the aim of achieving certain exchange rates."

The death of Hirohito after a 3½ month illness was expected to pressure the yen when financial markets reopen Monday. U.S. currency markets were already closed when the news was announced and few, if any, dealers were around on a Friday night to conduct after-hours business.

The emperor's death had been well anticipated, however, and dealers said the dollar would benefit if uncertain Japanese investors decided to park their money in the U.S. currency for a while.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which has advanced nearly 50 points in the last three sessions, rose 3.75 points to 2,194.29, its highest close since the October 1987 crash.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Sunday, Jan. 1, 89 and ending Wednesday Jan. 4, 89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	150	269	1,880	1,790	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	395	559	1,430	1,440	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	119414	149246	1,220	1,240	1,000
Housing Bank	100	189	1,890	1,890	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	61	925	15,550	15,000	5,000
Arab Bank	1410	195358	139,000	141,000	10,000
Jordan National Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	550	1192	2,400	2,400	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	17550	9824	0,550	0,560	1,000
National Financial Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	24244	19870	0,830	0,820	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	14950	13759	0,860	0,920	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashreq Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	100	100	1,050	1,000	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
National Ahliya Insurance	350	483	1,440	1,380	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	3650	2457	0,660	0,670	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	200	271	1,440	1,340	1,000
Iona for Investment and Financial Facilities	1664	1055	0,680	0,650	1,000
Danco for Housing and Investment	161888	138278	0,790	0,870	1,000
Arab Estate Investment (Aqarco)	127531	75883	0,570	0,610	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	92719	34417	0,330	0,380	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	17000	2940	0,670	0,680	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajerco	6100	1652	0,800	0,780	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	1815	3029	1,730	1,680	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	350	665	1,950	1,900	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	11200	6264	0,540	0,570	1,000
Jordan Dairy	1500	1496	1,000	1,000	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	1200	2747	2,280	2,300	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	420459	618472	1,420	1,510	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	—	—	—	—	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	6750	9064	1,330	1,360	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	700	2970	4,350	4,250	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	278314	413066	1,360	1,520	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	41960	83918	2,030	2,000	1,000
Jordan Worsled Mills	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	—	—	—	—	1,000
Chemical Industries	200	314	1,610	1,590	1,000
Jordan Industries and Mach (JIMCO)	20072	45353	2,350	2,350	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	3900	14370	0,630	0,650	1,000
National Steel Industries	23150	8403	2,080	2,150	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	65920	168302	2,980	2,910	1,000
General Mining	536	777	1,450	1,450	5,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	998	8294	8,600	8,400	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	30900	6476	0,190	0,210	1,000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Paper Covering and Trading	5300	1739	0,300	0,330	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	11486	17530	1,470	1,540	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Raffia Industrial for Plastic Bags	100	82	0,860	0,820	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	57313	54557	0,920	0,930	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	5,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	117800	130837	1,060	1,120	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	19009	17679	0,960	0,950	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	50262	134456	2,810	2,720	1,000
Jordan Cemeni Factories	37395	46385	1,270	1,270	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	200	194	0,980	0,970	1,000
Grand total	1,821,002	2,512,173			

Sikh militants kill 10, threaten more 'revenge' murders

BADDOWAL, India (Agencies) — Sikh extremists shot dead 10 farm labourers in their first major attack since the execution of two Sikhs for the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, relatives said Saturday.

Survivors in the Punjab hamlet of Lallanwal, near this village 40 kilometres north of Amritsar, told reporters the men were separated from women and children and then shot.

Police said the killings appeared to have been the work of the "Bhindranwale Tiger Force," one of several militant groups fighting for an independent Sikh homeland they call Khalistan.

"They appear to have chosen a soft target for their first revenge attack after the executions," one senior officer said.

Punjab, like the rest of north India, was placed under tight security in anticipation of extremist attacks in revenge for Friday's executions of Satwant Singh, 24, and Kehar Singh, 54, for the 1984 assassination of Gandhi.

Police discovered two unexploded bombs in rubbish bins in the centre of Ludhiana, a main industrial city of the north Indian state of Punjab.

Separatists set fire to a small railway station in the Sangrur district of Punjab Saturday morning. Police said no one was injured.

But otherwise the state was almost at a standstill following extremist calls for three days of mourning for the executed men.

The 10 Hindus killed near Baddowal were all members of one clan which settled here after the partition of the sub-continent into India and Pakistan in 1947.

Shocked relatives said the militants climbed over the wall of the clan compound Friday night. Four of them rounded up some of the women in one of the houses

and demanded tea.

An unknown number of other extremists went through the remaining houses and collected all males aged between 13 and 66, took them into the courtyard and shot them with automatic rifles.

The separatist campaign has grown significantly since Indira Gandhi ordered the army to attack the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the centre of the Sikh faith, to root out separatists using it as a headquarters. About 2,500 people were killed last year.

Her assassination Oct. 31, 1984, was in revenge for an attack most Sikhs saw as sacrilege. More than 1,200 people, many of them innocent devotees, were killed in the five-day army operation.

Satwant Singh was Gandhi's bodyguard when he and a fellow Sikh policeman killed the woman they were meant to protect. The second assassin, Beant Singh, was killed by other security guards.

Kehar Singh, Beant's uncle, was convicted of plotting the assassination.

Philippine troops raid dissident military camp; at least 16 killed

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines (AP) — Helicopters fired rockets and machine guns Saturday at dissidents in a military camp and soldiers found 16 bodies, including those of two high-ranking officers taken hostage by the rebels.

The army launched the attacks Saturday after the Philippine military chief said the dissidents had killed a general and a colonel they had taken hostage Thursday.

Soldiers said they had found 16 bodies in the military compound, including seven people killed by government troops in the garrison mosque. The other bodies were found in the military camp's charred headquarters building and included those of the two hostages, Brigadier General Eduardo Batalla and Colonel Romeo Abandan, the soldiers said.

Shooting continued Saturday afternoon in the military compound as government troops tried to dislodge the dissidents from

their final strongholds. Members of a military special-action team said the gunmen had abandoned most of their positions in the three-hectare seaside compound.

Despite what the soldiers said about finding 16 bodies, the government released no complete, official casualty count from the fighting. The military said nine soldiers and a Red Cross worker had been wounded since Friday.

One person was killed and another wounded during Thursday's takeover.

Officials said the soldiers identified the bodies of Batalla, regional Philippine constabulary commander, and Abandan, his chief of staff, from their class rings and distinctive uniform buttons.

The two officers were taken prisoner Thursday by eight policemen and seven supporters, led by patrolman Rizal Alih. The policemen had been ordered to surrender to Batalla to face murder charges in a 1984 slaying.

The military said up to 60 others, including many soldiers, had joined Alih's group after ransacking the garrison armoury.

Military chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa ordered troops to storm the garrison after civilian negotiators learned Friday that Batalla was dead.

In Manila, President Corason Aquino said she was "grieved" by the loss of lives.

"While our commitment to peaceful means remains unshaken, let there be no doubt about our equally strong resolve to protect our people from such brutal and senseless acts of violence," the president said.

Troops began firing recoilless rifles and automatic weapons into the camp before dawn Saturday. At mid-morning, two military UH-1 helicopters strafed the main stronghold with machine gun fire and a Sikorsky helicopter fired four rockets, setting the building on fire.



Grieving relatives of passengers and crew who perished in the Dec. 21 Pan Am crash over Scotland comfort each other at a memorial service held earlier this week (Sygma photo)

Pan Am bomb probably planted in London, Bonn intelligence says

BONN (R) — A worker at London's Heathrow Airport probably smuggled aboard the bomb which destroyed a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Scotland last month, according to West German intelligence.

Intelligence sources said Friday that British investigators believed explosives were more likely to have been planted on the Boeing 747 at Heathrow instead of Frankfurt where Flight 103 began.

They said investigators were working on the theory that explosives were planted directly under the flight deck in a passage to the forward baggage hold.

The disclosure appeared to be the first time the British investigative team has considered that a security breakdown at Heathrow most probably led to the explosion that killed 270 people Dec. 21.

The sources said West Germany's foreign intelligence agency, BND, had relayed the information on to the Bonn government after being briefed by British officials as part of the internationally-coordinated inquiry into the disaster.

A British Transport Ministry spokesman said "It's new to us." He added: "As far as we are concerned, we don't know where in the aircraft the bomb was placed nor do we know at which airport, or how the bomb got aboard."

The intelligence said British investigators were increasingly discounting the theory that the

bomb was smuggled in luggage aboard the smaller airliner that originated Flight 103 from Frankfurt to New York and then transferred to the doomed Jumbo jet in London without a security check.

It was held more likely that a member of the ground personnel at Heathrow slipped the bomb into a restricted-area passage under the flight deck connecting with the forward baggage hold, the sources said.

While British officials have refused to speculate in public about how and where the bomb was planted, British press reports have pointed to Frankfurt airport as the point of origin.

But West German officials have said they have no evidence to suggest a security lapse that could have allowed the bomb to be smuggled aboard at Frankfurt.

The West German intelligence sources said British officials had reasoned that if the bomb had been planted in a suitcase, it would have taken at least 30 kilograms to cause the blast which blew the Jumbo jet apart over the town of Lockerbie.

Baggage weighing more than 20 kilograms would not have been put to the forward freight compartment, they said, leading to the suspicion that the bomb was strapped to the wall, ground or ceiling of the limited-access passage of a Heathrow worker.

Some of the plane's electronic equipment was in the passage, the West German sources said.

The blast tore the flight deck away from the rest of the plane at 9,500 metres and it came down almost in one piece. Other debris was found more than 80 kilometres from Lockerbie.

New security measures

New security measures were introduced Friday at Heathrow, the world's busiest international terminal. Several Pan Am and Trans World Airways (TWA) flights were delayed as hundreds of passengers waited for their luggage to be searched.

Czechoslovakia, manufacturer of semtex plastic explosive used in guerrilla attacks, said it would send a team to Britain to help establish whether the substance was used to blow up the Pan Am Boeing.

The official Ceteke news agency said the team would arrive early next week. It also said Prague had proposed to London joint moves aimed at drawing up an international convention on marking and detecting plastic explosives.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Britain had repeatedly pressed Czechoslovakia to make the soft and odourless semtex detectable.

New York memorial

In Hempstead, New York, as bagpipers played "Scotland the Brave" and "Amazing Grace," 1,000 mourners paid a tearful farewell Friday to the crew of Pan Am Flight 103.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Madonna sues Penn again for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Rock star Madonna has filed for a divorce for a second time from Hollywood "bratpack" actor Sean Penn after a stormy three-year marriage, a spokeswoman for Madonna said Friday. Madonna, in a suit filed in a Los Angeles court, cited irreconcilable differences, all that is necessary under California law, Liz Rosenberg said. Madonna, 28, also filed for a divorce from Penn, who is one day younger than his wife, in December 1987, but the couple were reunited 13 days later. The latest suit comes as no surprise to friends who said Madonna moved out of the couple's family home in the Los Angeles film star colony of Malibu last week after a series of comings and goings by both sides. Penn, a leader of the so-called Hollywood bratpack of bot-headed young stars, and Madonna married in Malibu in a sunset ceremony overlooking the Pacific Aug. 16, 1985.

Jail just isn't what it used to be

SAN JOSE, California (R) — When their sole guard passed out from an apparent viral infection, 48 prisoners at the Santa Clara county jail calmly walked back to their cells and closed the doors behind them. "It is absolutely a miracle," chief jailer Bob Conroy said Friday. The county's new jail was built in a series of modules, with cells arrayed around a common area where unnamed guards mingle with prisoners. When inmates enter the lockup, they are shown an orientation film explaining the rules — including use of a "hotline" telephone in the event of an emergency. Conroy said a correctional officer Veronica Foley was on duty alone early Wednesday when she lost consciousness, apparently due to a virus. He said one of the prisoners notified her supervisors via the telephone and the rest of the inmates returned to their cells to await the arrival of a replacement guard. The prisoners were rewarded with ice cream.

Saviour to skip Bush party

ALBANY (AP) — A man who helped rescue George Bush from the Pacific Ocean more than 44 years ago is recuperating from back surgery and will have to skip the president-elect's inauguration Jan. 20. "It's a \$32 million party and I can't go," Dan Moody lamented. Moody, 71, said he received an invitation to the inauguration but will be unable to even ride in a car until Jan. 30. The retired electronics technician said he last saw Bush in September 1944, off the Bonin Islands south of Japan. Moody was a torpedoman aboard the submarine Finback. The Finback rescued the crew members of a dozen or more downed U.S. planes that day. Moody recalled. Among them was Bush, the youngest pilot in the navy. "He survived, but his two crewmen didn't," said Moody. "We brought him aboard, dried him out and gave him hot coffee." The Finback returned to Pearl Harbour about four weeks later with the aviators. Bush spent the long trip to Hawaii "censoring the mail," said Moody.

Sunlight returns to northern Canada

INUVIK (AP) — The temperatures hovered at almost minus-30C (-86 F) along the banks of the Mackenzie River as people in this Arctic community prepared to celebrate the first rays of sunlight in a month. Hundreds of people planned to attend Inuvik's second annual sunrise festival, a night-time celebration of bonfires, fireworks and dance dancing. The reason for their merriment came at about 1:35 p.m. (2035 GMT) Friday when the sun peered over the crest of the horizon for less than an hour. It was a welcome sight after a 30-day absence. "It's nice to see it come back," said town manager Diane Cheyne of the rebirth of daylight. The 19-year resident of Inuvik, a town of 3,400 people about 1,000 kilometres northwest of Yellowknife, said people just get used to the fact that from Dec. 6 to Jan. 6 they will have no sunlight. In the early afternoon they experience about three hours of twilight where the sun oars the horizon but doesn't quite rise above it.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian judge in Bhopal case replaced

BHOPAL (R) — The Indian judge who awarded \$270 million in interim compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas disaster was formally replaced Saturday. Following an October high court judgment upholding the contention of Union Carbide Corporation that Judge M.W. Deo had shown bias in making the interim award, the case was handed over to Judge Shamboo Singh. Singh was on leave Saturday, the date set for the latest hearing of the Indian government's claim against Union Carbide for \$3.3 billion in compensation for the victims of the world's worst industrial disaster. His court set Feb. 4 as the date for the next hearing. The Connecticut-based American company's Indian subsidiary challenged the interim compensation award as amounting to pre-judgment of who was at fault when its pesticide plant spewed poisonous gas across the central Indian city of Bhopal. More than 3,300 people died as a result of the 1984 accident.

'U.S. could stay out of Moscow meeting'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States could decide to stay away from the scheduled 1991 human rights conference in Moscow if Soviet progress towards human rights slackens, the State Department said Friday. "We think the prospect of holding a Moscow meeting will lead the Soviets to continue improving performance," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said at a news briefing. "The lack of future progress would cause us to reconsider attendance at the Moscow meeting." She said the United States had agreed to attend the 1991 meeting in Moscow with the expectation that recent moves for human rights would continue, including the abolition or amendment of key articles of the criminal code and passage of effective legislation on immigration. "That expectation of continued progress was a key factor in our decision," to attend the conference, Oakley said.

Eagleburger named Baker deputy

WASHINGTON (R) — Former career foreign service officer Lawrence Eagleburger, a close associate of Henry Kissinger, has been selected for the State Department's number two job. President-elect Bush's transition office said Friday. Eagleburger, who served as undersecretary of state for political affairs from 1982-84 after 27 years as a foreign service officer, will be deputy secretary of state. Former Treasury Secretary James Baker was previously named as secretary of state. Margaret Tutwiler, a longtime associate of Baker, was named assistant secretary of public affairs and department spokesperson. She previously served as assistant secretary of the treasury when Baker headed that department. Vernon Walters, the current U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and a retired army general, was named to be ambassador to West Germany.

Gunmen kill two noted mafia brothers

SARNO, Italy (R) — Gunmen in two cars shot dead two members of a well-known mafia "family" Friday, riddling their bodies with submachine-gun fire and pistol shots, police said. The killers forced a car carrying Graziano brothers, Mario and Valentino, to swerve off the road near their home in Sarno south of Naples. They jumped out of their car and tried to run away but were shot by at least six men. The Graziano family has controlled the nearby town of Quindici for 30 years despite three mayors from the family being removed from office for reasons of public order. Both Mario, 27, and Valentino, 21, had previous convictions for crimes including robbery, illegal possession of arms and membership of the Camorra, the Naples version of Sicilian mafia.

U.S. Congress seeks North case explanation

WASHINGTON (R) — Key U.S. congressmen have asked the top U.S. law officer to explain why Oliver North could not be tried for theft and conspiracy in the Iran-contra affair without revealing classified information. The lawmakers said Friday they are seeking information from U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh under a law requiring semi-annual reports to the congressional intelligence and judiciary committees about cases that are not prosecuted in order cases that are not prosecuted in order cases that are not prosecuted in order.

Special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh is seeking dismissal of the two central charges against sacked White House aide North Thursday after U.S. intelligence agencies, backed by President Reagan, blocked disclosure of classified information necessary for his case.

In a letter to Thornburgh the chairman and vice-chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee said the law "requires a full explanation" of

the decision to seek to drop the charges. Earlier Friday, Thornburgh said the public had learned as much as it ever will about the Iran-contra affair in extensive congressional hearings and a review by a presidential commission.

"My sense is that the accumulation of all of this will give you as much as you're ever going to know about the particulars of this case," he said in a television interview.

The two charges accused North of theft and conspiring to defraud the government by diverting more than \$12 million in profits from Iran arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels at a time when official U.S. aid to the contras was banned.

North faces 12 other criminal charges, including obstruction of justice by shredding White House documents to cover up the scandal, and making false statements to Congress.

The remaining charges carry a maximum penalty of 60 years in prison and \$3 million in fines.

Plan to delay C. America summit sparks dispute

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega attacked Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' proposal to postpone next week's Central American peace summit, and other leaders said they still planned to attend.

Arias, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for spearheading a regional peace plan, said Friday the summit planned for Jan. 15-16 should be postponed to give President-elect George Bush time to formulate his policy in the region.

Arias also said he and his counterparts in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador needed more time to prepare for the meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The presidents had planned to talk about how to revive the peace plan they signed in 1987. Although some progress had been made under the plan, it is now stalled in all the countries it applied to.

Ortega said Arias' proposal could "practically kill" previous peace accords between the Central American nations.

"The great irony is that President Arias, the great creator of the Esquipulas peace plan — for which he was given the Nobel Prize — could be the same person that buries the plan," Ortega said.

"Fixing the dates of Jan. 15 and 16 was proof by the Central American governments that we weren't going to be waiting until the new North American government assumed power to debate our problems and look for a solution," the Nicaraguan leader said.

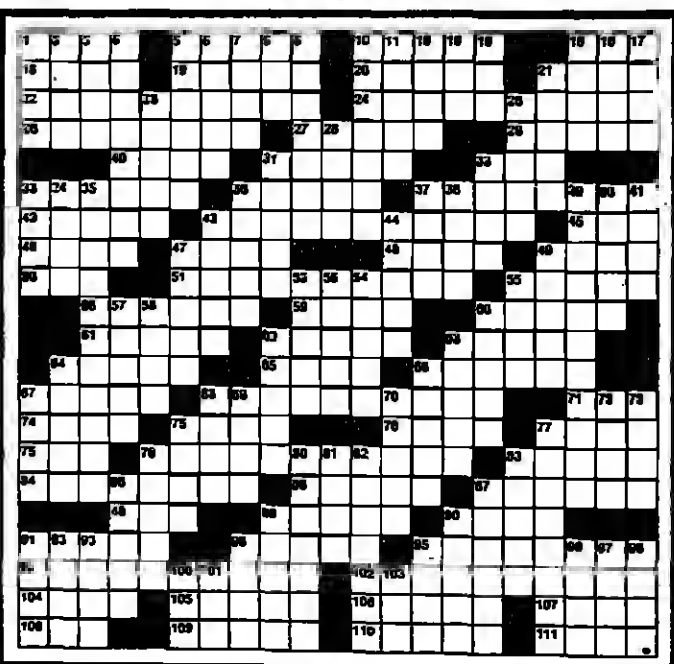
Honduran and Guatemalan officials said they still planned to attend the meeting. "I'm still preparing for the meeting," said President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, the meeting's host country.

Arias said Central American leaders should give Bush, who takes office Jan. 20, and James Baker, his designated secretary of state, time to formulate U.S. policy in Central America.

He spoke at a news conference and released a letter he sent to the other leaders Friday.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkenshaw



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. A crossword puzzle constructor angrily muzzled the copycat mocking her hard work.
2. Lightning in thunderstorm zapped full freezer, creating ice cream soup.
3. At many cocktail parties one is very likely to overcome xenophobia.
4. Divinity student should strive very hard to save souls.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. NYHNEF: SLV FOX ALLZ BLIP LA PRU
KULKZU ALIP LA PRU BEU, HYP PROP OZZ
PROPI XUFUIONS!

—By Len Sherry

2. PKCZ ZQ ZGZM, GBAZZU BUT, MUSICAL
LZKU ECSLP GM RII PZZ KMMTH QZK EH
BPAPM.

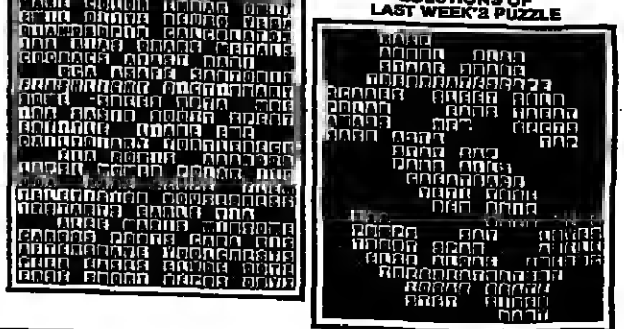
—By Ed Riddance

3. JULDDBT HTRAKUCLE DVKE HVU JTD
SLNSA VH SLNTRA, JFN CTABX BVNTED
LEI HLXXB TE CFL.

—By Earl Ireland

4. MOCCTI TORVIL ZSORI AIKC VB O SOEEL
PSAVC MYSMTVBZ KYBQSL WOTTPX
ZSPYBQ OBQ WIX WIBMK.

—By Gordon Miller



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE